



Docket No.: SON-2321
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Hideaki Watanabe et al.

Application No.: 10/040,436

Confirmation No.: 4774

Filed: January 9, 2002

Art Unit: 2134

For: PUBLIC KEY CERTIFICATE ISSUING
SYSTEM, PUBLIC KEY CERTIFICATE
ISSUING METHOD, DIGITAL
CERTIFICATION APPARATUS, AND
PROGRAM STORAGE MEDIUM

Examiner: J. E. Elmore

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.